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NEWS WORTH SHARING.

## Ugly has never been so in style

The hideous Christmas sweater trend shows no signs of slowing down PAGE 4

## Canucks fall in overtime to Sens

Vancouver holds on for a point after giving up a three-goal lead PAGE 24

## FORGET THE SAME OLD STORY

GREY'S ANATOMY ALUM SANDRA OH TURNS TO CROWDFUNDING FOR BETTER REPRESENTATION FOR ASIAN WOMEN PAGE 17

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# Beating the drum for missing women

**False Creek.** Rally renews calls for inquiry into aboriginal women who have disappeared or been murdered

MATT KIELTYKA
matt.kieltyka@metronews.ca

People attending the #AmINext rally and calling for a federal inquiry into murdered and missing aboriginal women take part in a drum circle in Vancouver on Sunday. MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

Heartfelt drumming and songs from First Nations that have lost too many daughters, mothers, sisters and aunts amplified through False Creek on Sunday during a powerful demonstration.

More than 100 people gathered near Science World to call for a federal inquiry into murdered and missing aboriginal women as part of the growing #AmINext campaign.

A quick look at the crowd showed the pervasiveness of the issue, and why NDP MP Libby Davies says the murder and disappearance of 1,181 aboriginal women since 1980, according to RCMP, needs to be looked at as more than just isolated, individual crimes.

Many people in the crowd wore shirts or held signs with the picture of a relative or friend who has gone missing or been killed.

Molly Dickson attended the rally with a picture of her daughter, Angeline Pete, who went missing in May 2011 and hasn't been found.

The weekend marked Pete's 31st birthday.

"It is very frustrating. I can't even sleep at night, worrying and wondering where she can be," said Dickson. "She's a young mother and she's loved by a lot of people. She's a person."

Dickson said First Nations communities are all too familiar with how deep the disappearance and murder of so many women has affected families, but "it doesn't seem important to anybody else."

#AmINext started as a social media campaign involving women taking pictures of themselves with a sign asking if they could be the next missing or murdered aboriginal woman.

The campaign is meant to raise public awareness and to lobby the federal government for an inquiry.

Now rallies in the campaign's name have sprouted up across the country.

"I am next? Those are such powerful words," said Vancouver-Mt. Pleasant MLA Jenny Kwan at the Vancouver rally. "Isn't it time to say we need a national inquiry to get to the bottom of this, and to stop it from happening again?"

A talking stick from Sunday's rally will be passed to different communities holding their own #AmINext rallies until it ends up in Ottawa, where a final demonstration is planned.

The federal government has so far rejected calls for an inquiry, but Davies vowed to continue pushing "like hell" for one in the House of Commons.

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NEWS

Endangered species

## Fisheries officials investigating after teeth pulled from dead orca

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans is investigating after someone removed several teeth from a dead killer whale as it lay on a Vancouver Island boat launch waiting to be examined by biologists.

The endangered orca, known as J-32, was reported floating in the water near Courtenay on Thursday. Officials with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans moved the carcass to a boat launch Friday evening, where it was set to undergo a post-mortem examination on Saturday.

By morning, several teeth were damaged or removed, said Paul Cottrell, the Pacific marine mammals co-ordinator for the department.

"It looks like they broke off a couple, and there were a number that were sawed off, and those were cut off right to the gum," Cottrell said in an interview Sunday.

Cottrell said fisheries officers are following up on a number of leads. The federal Species At Risk Act makes it illegal to possess part of an endangered or threatened animal.

"It's just a senseless, illegal act," said Cottrell. "We take this kind of thing seriously. We don't want endangered species parts being traded or sold."

Biologists have yet to determine a cause of death. The necropsy revealed the whale was pregnant with a full-term fetus. The death is considered a significant blow to the killer whale population and efforts to rebuild it. THE CANADIAN PRESS

**Santa Claus makes early stop in his favourite city**

Toddlers climbed onto their parents' shoulders in downtown Vancouver on Sunday to catch a glimpse of a jolly, waving Santa at the 11th annual Rogers Santa Claus Parade. About 300,000 lined the streets to welcome Santa and raise money for the Greater Vancouver Food Bank Society. EMILY JACKSON/METRO

# Mayors press ever forward on transit

**Regional transport.** Leaders meet for first time since election, eye referendum question

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Mayors made "significant progress" at a behind-closed-doors meeting on regional transportation Friday, they said.

Tasked with drawing up a plan to fund its 10-year $7.5-billion public-transportation proposal, the Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation resumed last week for the first time since the Nov. 15 municipal elections.

The plan will be put to a vote in a referendum next year.

"We made significant progress today and look forward to continuing discussions next week with an eye to determining a referendum question for recommendation to the provincial government," said District of North Vancouver Mayor Richard Walton, chair of the council, in a statement.

According to the statement, the mayors are considering three potential sources of new funding: An increase to the existing B.C. carbon tax, which would be charged on fossil-fuel purchases within Metro Vancouver; an increase to the existing provincial sales tax, which would be charged on PST-eligible purchases in the region; and an annual vehicle-registration fee.

The regional plan on the table includes a subway line along Broadway in Vancouver, light rapid transit in Surrey and a region-wide expansion of bus service.

However, B.C. transportation minister Todd Stone has previously called the plan unaffordable and suggested cutting out projects to save costs or extend the time frame to 15 years.

Despite his criticisms and the fact the referendum is being provincially mandated against the mayors' wishes, the ministry claimed last week Stone "will do everything he can to set the referendum up for success."

The provincial government hopes to hold a referendum by June 30, 2015.

A final decision on the referendum question could be made when the mayors next meet publicly on Thursday.

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# Ugly X-mas sweater trend isn't unravelling

**Ho-ho-hideous.** Vancouver retailers still see high demand for grotesque garments

For years, sweaters bristling with bells, lights, appliquéd Santa Clauses, snowmen and reindeer were mocked as the exclusive province of the tasteless at Christmas.

But the tide is turning and the ugly Christmas sweater has become a tradition of sorts that continues to grow.

"Right after Halloween we bring in the ugly Christmas sweaters," said Tracy Lynn, manager of Used House of Vintage, where street-level signs — one brandished by a man in a Mr. Peanut costume — tell Vancouver shoppers they can find "5,000 ugly Christmas sweaters upstairs."

"It goes up every year. It's definitely up this year," Lynn said of the amount of merchandise her store was selling.

Both Lynn and Stephen Peever, who mans a sidewalk stall, Ugly Christmas Sweaters, say demand had increased markedly in the past three or four years. They attributed that growth to more people having office and house parties featuring ugly Christmas sweaters.

"Typical day, I probably sell 15 to 20, on a good day, maybe 30," said Peever, at his stall at the corner of Granville and Robson streets. "People love them, and I can thank grandmothers around the world for that. It's really fun when you see somebody's face just light up at the atrociousness of a sweater."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Stephen Peever holds up an ugly Christmas sweater on Granville Street on Friday. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS


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# City hall. Vision Vancouver relaxes grip on council

Vision Vancouver seems to be loosening its tight grip on City Hall as Mayor Gregor Robertson embarks on his third term.

With the mayor set to be sworn in for four more years on Monday — a month after apologizing to voters for his first time in six years and telling them he'll do better this time — the city relaxed its media policy and the mayor suggested naming councillors from opposition parties to fairly high profile positions.

Reporters can once more contact senior staff directly instead of first asking permission from a general media line that tends to send canned statements. This will make it more efficient to get information to the public.

Robertson also recommended assigning incumbent Non-Partisan Association Coun. Elizabeth Ball to some important files, namely as vice-chair of the committee on transportation, planning and the environment. He also recognized Green Party Coun. Adriane Carr, who received the most votes in the election, by suggesting she be named to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Board.

While the mayor recommends assigning most of the positions to Vision Vancouver councillors, it seems he is setting the tone to work more with the opposing parties.

Vision won a majority on council in the November election, but lost its power on both the park and school boards.

The mayor and 10 councillors will be sworn in at Creekside Community Centre on Monday afternoon in advance of their first council meeting at 5 p.m. EMILY JACKSON/METRO

# Car sharing. Car2go expands to Richmond, YVR

With Vancouver taxi companies busy battling Uber, another transportation option has expanded in the Lower Mainland without stirring up a ruckus.

Car2go has expanded to Richmond and the Vancouver International Airport, the one-way Smart-car sharing company announced last week.

That gives Car2go members — or at least those who travel without much luggage — a chance to get to YVR for a fraction of the cost as a taxi.

An airport trip, however, won't necessarily be as convenient. Users will be charged an extra $7.50 to park or leave from the nearby Pacific Gateway Hotel, from which they will have to take a shuttle to the terminal.

To serve the larger, 120 square-kilometre home area that includes Grouse Mountain, UBC and Horseshoe Bay, Car2go will expand its fleet by 50 cars for a total of 750. About 75,000 members share the vehicles.

Car2go Smart cars sit atop a Gastown parkade. KAYLA ISOMURA/FOR METRO

Richmond Mayor Malcolm Brodie welcomed Car2go as a way to reduce the number of vehicles on the road and lower greenhouse gas emissions.

"Car sharing helps us achieve our sustainability goals, while providing an economical and convenient transportation alternative for its users," Brodie said in a statement.

EMILY JACKSON/METRO

## Got an idea? Design contest is on for Robson Street

The temporary plaza in front of the Vancouver Art Gallery has been home to a fake beach, beanbag cushions, wooden planks and a skeletal bench.

With ideas as diverse as these, it's anyone's guess what the 800 block of Robson Street will look like when it's closed to cars between Canada Day and Labour Day next summer.

The city is hosting its second annual competition for emerging and professional designers and artists to transform the square into a pedestrian hotspot. While the VIVA Vancouver contest is open to anyone, a jury of professional architects, designers and landscape architects will be picky deciding who will get to give the plaza a temporary makeover.

The winner will get a small stipend and $40,000 for materials, construction, installation and takedown.

Last year more than 70 teams vied to design the square, which was ultimately transformed into the "Urban Reef" by a team of local architects.

Teams can enter the contest at vivadesigncomp.ca. The registration deadline is Jan. 30 and the submission deadline is Feb. 15.

EMILY JACKSON/METRO

People sit on the Urban Reef installation in front of the Vancouver Art Gallery in summer 2014. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO FILE

## Layoffs at VCC. Some ESL courses to survive

The ability to charge tuition may save the higher-level ESL courses at Vancouver Community College, but dozens of layoffs are expected as the program will be forced to shrink in the New Year.

The province announced new rules last week that will allow post-secondary institutions to charge tuition for the English classes, which are needed by many immigrants to land the jobs that match their skills from home.

Yet tuition won't account for the operating costs formerly covered by the government, so the school won't be able to offer its full program as of Jan. 1, said Karen Shortt of the VCC faculty association.

That means layoffs for the majority of the 70 teachers at the ESL program. Shortt anticipates the college might be able to salvage only a dozen jobs.

EMILY JACKSON/METRO

# 'Go and make more friends, meet people'

**B.C. NDP leader John Horgan.** Plans to meet B.C. residents while leaving political battles to his best warriors

B.C. NDP leader John Horgan plans to hit the road to with meet British Columbians, leaving the slugging to his back benchers. MATT KIELTYKA/METRO FILE

Advice from former New Democrat premier Mike Harcourt includes allowing the warriors to battle the government, the leader of British Columbia's opposition party says.

John Horgan said Harcourt told him to hit the road and meet B.C. residents, while leaving his five best warriors to fight the political battles and hold the Liberals accountable.

"I want to be able to go to Squamish, I want to be able to go to Sicamous, I want to be able to go to Salmon Arm and get the same response that I get in Sooke," he said in a year-end interview.

"That's the plan and I've got 2-1/2 years to do it," said the MLA for Juan de Fuca.

Horgan said once people hear his policies directly from him and not the Liberals, they will be in a better position to make decisions about supporting the New Democrats.

"I have to blow past the constant negative that rains down on me from the government side and go directly to the people," he said.

"I find that if I can look people in the eye, let them kick the tires and let them measure my character then they'll judge themselves about what the Liberals say about me."

Premier Christy Clark recently said she believes Horgan is sometimes dismissive of her because she is a woman. Horgan says he strongly denies the sexism allegations, but acknowledges he must do a better job of articulating New Democrat policies to counter Clark and the Liberals.

"I don't believe that I am dismissive of women at all," he said. "It was a ploy by the premier to cast doubt."

Horgan said he must be able to show he can deflect Clark's political jabs with facts that people understand.

He said he was originally reluctant to seek the party leadership because after the NDP's devastating election defeat in May 2013, he believed the New Democrats should look to its younger voices for leadership. But intense lobbying from many people inside and outside the party convinced him to take the role.

"My plan is, and what I say to my caucus at the end of every meeting is, 'Go and make more friends. Go and meet more people you've never met before,'" he said. "'Find out what their concerns are and why they don't look to us as a viable governing party.'"

Horgan said he'll be taking Harcourt's advice and travelling the province as much as possible. He'll also be leaning on his bench strength, especially New Democrats Carole James, David Eby, Michelle Mungall, Selina Robinson and Mike Farnworth.

"Those are the five who have been performing the best for me by far."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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# Avian flu. Fifth Fraser Valley farm under quarantine

A fifth poultry farm has been placed under quarantine in British Columbia's Fraser Valley, where an estimated 140,000 birds are expected to be euthanized to contain the avian flu.

Canada's chief veterinary officer, Dr. Harpreet Kochhar, said the virus was confirmed on Saturday after several turkeys died at the farm in Abbotsford and the producer volunteered to have his animals tested.

That was the same day that officials with the Canada Food Inspection Agency began destroying birds at a second farm in southwestern B.C. to stop the spread of the H5N2 avian flu.

Broiler-breeder chickens in Chilliwack were destroyed on Friday. An estimated 60,000 birds are expected to be destroyed from the latest farm to be quarantined.

Seven trade partners have now placed varying restrictions on importing poultry meat or poultry products from B.C. or Canada, with the United States, South Africa and Mexico joining Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong and South Korea.

The U.S. has banned poultry and poultry products, including eggs, from the region. South Africa and South Korea have extended those restrictions to all provinces and Japan has halted imports of day-old chicks from B.C. and poultry meats from Canada. THE CANADIAN PRESS

**Quoted**

**"The CFIA has mobilized all available resources to manage this situation."**

Harpreet Kochhar, Canada's chief veterinary officer

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Kulwant Sahota, president of Yellow Cabs, demonstrates the talking taxi meter technology at a news conference on Friday. THANDI FLETCHER/METRO

# Taxis to get audio meters

**First in Canada.** New accessible cabs will feature gizmo to make life easier for blind passengers

THANDI FLETCHER
thandi.fletcher@metronews.ca

Four Vancouver taxi companies are hoping to be the first in Canada to install "talking meters" in cabs that aim to make it easier for blind and partially sighted passengers to pay their fare.

Yellow Cab, Vancouver Taxi, MacLures Cabs and Black Top Cabs have applied collectively to the province's Passenger Transportation Board to add a total of 78 new wheelchair-accessible cabs to their fleets that will be equipped with the talking meter technology, which cost about $500 each.

Customers can use the talking meters by asking drivers to turn on an optional audio feature at the start of the trip. The meters then announce the starting fare, increases throughout the trip and the final amount.

Donavan Tildesley, who is blind and a three-time Paralympian swimmer, said talking meters could help protect blind and partially sighted people from being overcharged.

Tildesley believes he has only been overcharged once or twice.

"Usually people are quite friendly and trusting," he said. "But I think there are those drivers out there who might decide to take advantage of somebody."

Carolyn Bauer, spokeswoman for the Vancouver Taxi Association, said the meters are ready to be installed once the Passenger Transportation Board has approved the application for 78 new accessible cabs submitted in June.

"As soon as the 78 are approved, we're good to go."

**Pay raise, overhead, etc.**

## Province inks deal with doctors for rural, remote areas

Doctors in B.C. have signed a five-year agreement, which the government says will improve care in rural and remote communities.

The province says new funding will help recruit and retain doctors for those areas and increase access to family physicians and surgical services throughout the province.

The deal provides a 5.5 per cent hike in compensation and incentives by the end of the five-year term, in March 2019.

The deal also includes money for doctors' overhead costs such as clerical staff and medical equipment.

Dr. Bill Cavers, president of Doctors of BC, says that along with new funding for key areas, the deal provides five years of stability that will allow for innovative change to the health-care system.

The new contract with 10,000 physicians is similar to others negotiated with the public sector and allows for increased compensation if the economy performs better than forecasted.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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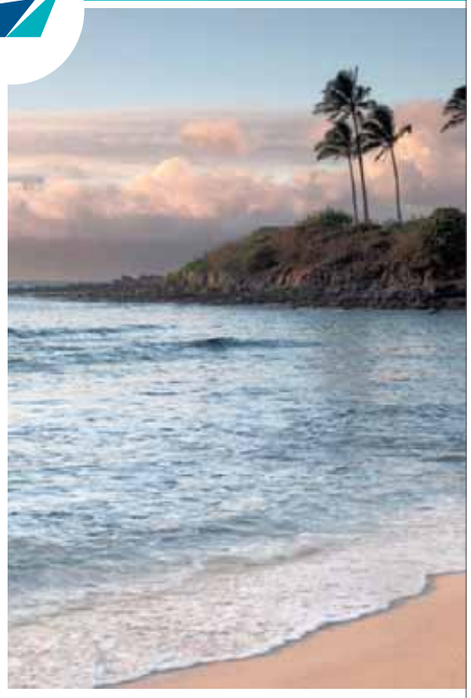

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## Paying tribute to a legend

Mourners file past the casket Sunday in Montreal to pay their respects during the public viewing for the Montreal Canadiens legend Jean Béliveau. Béliveau died at the age of 83. PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Threats issued

### ISIL video calls for attacks on Canada

A U.S.-based company that monitors trends within the global jihadist movement says the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) has released a video calling for lone-wolf attacks on Canadian targets.

SITE Intelligence Group posted the six-minute video on its website Sunday and it's been distributed on Twitter and jihadi forums. On the video, a man, who says he is Canadian and identifies himself as Abu Anwar al-Canadi, urges his Muslim countrymen to follow the example of Martin Couture-Rouleau who killed one soldier — officer Patrice Vincent — and injured another when he ran them down with a car in October.

Standing in the ruins of an unidentified area, Abu Anwar warns Canadians that their country being part of the U.S.-led coalition fighting ISIL will bring revenge attacks upon them.

The Canadian government deployed fighter jets and troops earlier this year to join other countries conducting air strikes to back Iraqi ground forces battling Islamic state militants. THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Sex workers' safety a worry to Wynne

**New prostitution laws.** Ontario premier wants assurances that legislation is not a breach of Charter of Rights and Freedoms

Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne says she is concerned the country's new prostitution law fails to make sex workers safer, and is seeking advice on whether it is in line with the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Wynne says she has asked the province's attorney general to advise her on the legislation's "constitutional validity" in light of the Supreme Court of Canada ruling quashing the old law. In her statement Sunday Wynne says she has also asked to be given "options" in case the law's charter compatibility is questioned, but adds the province will still enforce it.

The new law took effect Saturday and more than 60 organizations and agencies from across the country are calling for its non-enforcement and repeal. Those groups voiced concern the new law will continue to leave sex workers at risk as under the old system — a sentiment Wynne also expressed.

Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne
DARREN CALABRESE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

It's the latest flare-up between Wynne and Prime Minister Stephen Harper, who Wynne has said is refusing to meet to discuss issues of importance to the province.

The sweeping new changes to the way prostitution is regulated in Canada follow the Supreme Court decision last year that found the old laws violated the rights of prostitutes.

The new rules criminalize the purchase of sex as well as things like advertising or other forms of communication related to its sale, while providing some legal immunity for sex workers themselves.

"I have listened to the debate that has taken place over the last year, and particularly since the introduction of Bill C-36. And I am left with grave concern that the so-called Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act will protect neither 'exploited persons' nor 'communities,'" Wynne's statement reads.

"I am concerned that this legislation (now the law of the land) will not make sex workers safer," she adds. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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# Eric Garner. California protests turn violent

Mostly peaceful protests of a grand jury's decision not to indict a white police officer in the chokehold death of an unarmed black man have continued, but authorities said a march in California turned violent when a splinter group smashed windows and threw objects at police.

A Berkeley police officer received hospital treatment for a dislocated shoulder after being hit with a sandbag, while another sustained minor injuries, police spokeswoman Jenn Coats said.

She said several businesses were looted and damaged when a splinter group broke from the peaceful demonstration Saturday night, and officers attempting to get the crowd to disperse used smoke and tear gas. Protesters threw rocks, bricks, bottles and pipes at officers, and some squad cars were damaged. At least six people had been arrested by the time the unrest ended early Sunday morning, Coats said.

Thousands have protested peacefully in New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, Seattle, Miami and Las Vegas since the announcement on Wednesday that a grand jury declined to indict a white officer in the death of Eric Garner, a black man who gasped, "I can't breathe," while being placed in a chokehold as he was being arrested for selling loose, untaxed cigarettes.

The decision followed a Ferguson, Mo., grand jury's choice not to indict a white officer in the fatal shooting of 18-year-old Michael Brown.

The scope of the demonstrations and the lack of violence were moving to Garner's mother, she said Saturday. "It is just so awesome to see how the crowds are out there," said Gwen Carr.

"I was just so proud of that crowd. It just warmed my heart."

Officers have said the outcry over the grand jury decision has left them feeling betrayed and demonized by everyone from the president and the mayor to throngs of protesters who scream at them on the street. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Typhoon Hagupit sends 900,000 to shelters

**Strong waves crash into coastal houses as Typhoon Hagupit pounds Legazpi, Albay province, in the Philippines on Sunday. Typhoon Hagupit knocked out power in entire coastal provinces, mowed down trees and sent more than 900,000 people into shelters before it weakened Sunday.**

AARON FAVILA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Israel

## Military looking into Gaza airstrike deaths

The Israeli military says it has opened a criminal investigation into a deadly airstrike from the last Gaza war. At least 24 members of the Abu Jamea family were killed in the July 20 strike on their home. They included 18 children between the ages of six months and nine years, according to death certificates obtained by The Associated Press.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New Delhi, India

## Uber driver arrested over rape allegations

Indian police arrested a driver from the international taxi-booking service Uber Sunday for allegedly raping a young woman in the capital. Shiv Kumar Yadav, 32, was arrested Friday, police said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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MERRY CHRISTMAS

Furries outside a Chicago hotel Sunday where police believe chlorine gas was deliberately released. NAM Y. HUH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Chlorine gas hits FurFest

**Suburban Chicago.** 19 people sent to hospital; police say they believe gas was released intentionally

Chlorine gas sickened several people and forced the evacuation of thousands of guests from a suburban Chicago hotel early Sunday, including many dressed in cartoonish animal costumes for an annual furries convention who were ushered across the street to a convention centre that was hosting a dog show.

Nineteen people who became nauseous or dizzy were treated at local hospitals, and at least 18 were released shortly thereafter.

The source of the gas was apparently chlorine powder left in a ninth-floor stairwell at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare, according to the Rosemont Public Safety Department. Investigators say they believe the gas was created intentionally and are treating it as a criminal matter.

The hotel is hosting the 2014 Midwest FurFest convention, also called Anthrocon, where attendees celebrate animals that are anthropomorphic — meaning they've been given human characteristics — through art, literature and performance.

Many of the attendees, who refer to themselves as "furries," wore cartoonish animal outfits.

Guests were allowed to return a few hours later after the hotel had been decontaminated, and by mid-morning the furries were pouring back into the hotel for more activities, chat with each other and make their way to a outdoor courtyard where they took part in a group exercise session, with foxes, dragons and other characters getting an aerobic workout. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DiMaggio and Miller

## Marilyn Monroe love letters fetch big bucks

Joe DiMaggio's love letter to Marilyn Monroe has sold for $78,125 at a Beverly Hills auction.

Julien's Auctions says the letter was written by the New York Yankees star after Monroe announced she was divorcing him.

The letter during their brief, volatile marriage in 1954 was among 300 items, dubbed Marilyn Monroe's Lost Archives, that went on the block. A handwritten letter from Monroe to her third and final husband, playwright Arthur Miller, sold for $43,750.

Monroe, who died of a drug overdose at age 36 in 1962, willed the collection to acting coach Lee Strasberg. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Barcelona Zoo

## Man rescued from lions' den at zoo

Officials in Spain say a man has been rescued from the lions' enclosure at Barcelona Zoo after being seriously mauled by three lions.

Witnesses say a man wearing a military-style uniform jumped into the den.

Barcelona's fire department was called Sunday to the city's zoo where witnesses had seen a man wearing a military-style uniform jump into the den, according to a statement from the city government.

Emergency services used fire hoses to distance the lions from the man, who had been attacked and dragged into a tunnel within their enclosure.

The man went to a hospital where he is in serious condition. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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## 'Shoppertainment' takes off

**The Urban Lodge at the Eaton Centre in Toronto offers customers seating, free Wi-Fi and complimentary charging stations for mobile devices. Experts say with the rise of online shopping, malls must provide people with "shoppertainment" to get them through the door over the Christmas holidays.** TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

# Low oil prices may hurt banks

**Worry.** TD Bank has been impacted by the price of petroleum and there is concern other lenders are at risk, too

Oil prices that reached a five-year low on Friday are starting to take a bite out of profits at TD Bank and raising concerns for the rest of the country's top lenders.

Canada's biggest banks earn up to 20 per cent of their revenues through providing investment and corporate banking services, with oil and gas companies an important part of that client base.

But with oil prices slipping — they have tumbled roughly 35 per cent to under $70 a barrel from their mid-summer highs due to a strong U.S. dollar, low demand and a glut of global supply — TD Bank says it will have to look beyond the oilpatch to make up its investment banking revenue.

"With the current activity going on in oil pricing, it certainly is impacting activity levels in the business," Bob Dorrance, the head of TD's wholesale banking division, told investors during a conference call earlier this week after the bank reported its fourth quarter results.

"Things have slowed down."

The energy sector, a major weight on the Toronto Stock Exchange, has taken a beating on the markets and taken other stocks, including those with indirect exposure to companies that produce crude, down with it.

While all of the country's top lenders reported substantial profits during the quarter, Canaccord Genuity analyst Gabriel Deschaine noted that lacklustre performance on the stock markets caused many of the banks to report weaker than expected revenues from their brokerage businesses.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

# North Korea hails cyberattack on Sony

North Korea released a statement Sunday that clearly relished a cyberattack on Sony Pictures, which is producing an upcoming film that depicts an assassination plot against Pyongyang's supreme leader.

While denying responsibility for an attack last week that disrupted Sony's computer system and spewed confidential information onto the Internet, an unidentified spokesman for the North's powerful National Defence Commission acknowledged that it "might be a righteous deed of the supporters and sympathizers" of the North's call for the world to turn out in a "just struggle" against U.S. imperialism.

"We do not know where in America the Sony Pictures is situated and for what wrongdoings it became the target of the attack, nor (do) we feel the need to know about it," the statement carried in state media said. "But what we clearly know is that the Sony Pictures is the very one which was going to produce a film abetting a terrorist act while hurting the dignity of the supreme leadership of" North Korea.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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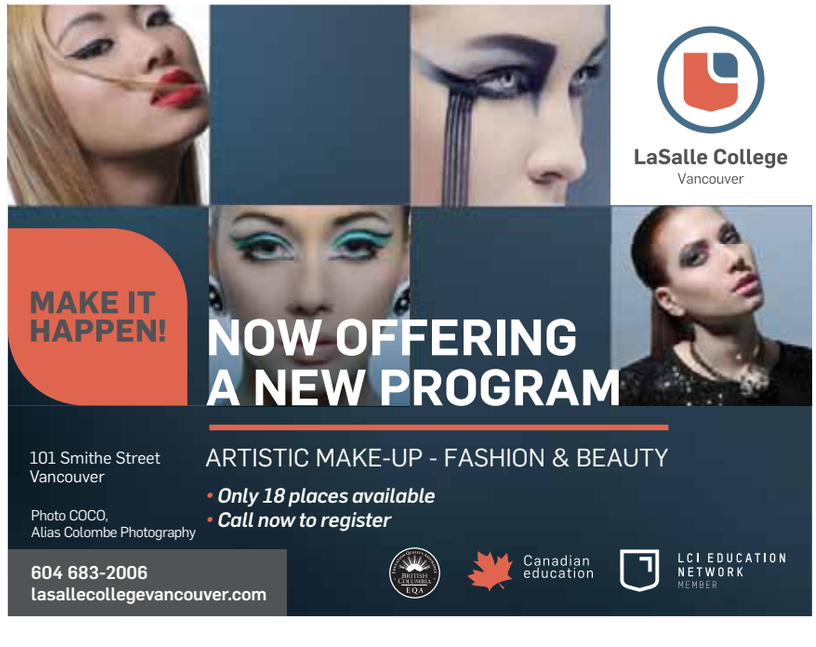

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VOICES

# NOT-SO-SECRET QUESTION

A secret referendum question from a secret meeting of Metro's mayors that will be revealed Thursday will, by all accounts, be a bunch of unco-ordinated wishes to address the looming traffic apocalypse

**PAUL SULLIVAN**
vancouver@metronews.ca

Here's the problem.

Somehow, we'll have to stuff another million people into Metro Vancouver by 2040. This has vast implications for every aspect of our quality of life, as in we have to be careful or there won't be any.

Take traffic. If you believe those annual TomTom surveys, we already suffer the worst gridlock in North America. Imagine what it will be like in 2040. If we don't get started on a meaningful solution now, the traffic apocalypse will arrive right on time.

Here's what we're doing to address the problem: Our premier has decided that the people should decide on the solution via referendum, sometime in the spring. Metro's mayors have the task of coming up with a referendum question, which they allegedly did Friday in a secret meeting. The secret question from the secret meeting will be revealed to all Thursday, when the mayors will vote on whether or not to accept it.

Politicians being who they are, the question isn't really a secret. It will likely ask us to support a wish list of assorted Translink projects — a Broadway Skytrain, a new Patullo Bridge, light rail for Surrey and hundreds of new buses — worth about $7.5 billion.

These things are notoriously flawed because voters are always reluctant to volunteer for a tax increase, and Metro voters are even less likely to give $7.5 billion to Translink, which is not exactly the most revered institution in town.

All that aside, Todd Stone, the provincial minister of transport, has told anyone who will listen that $7.5 billion is too much money anyway. So does that mean he'll support or reject the question? Postpone the referendum until the mayors come up with a number he likes?

Oh, and the premier has already unilaterally announced that she plans to replace the George Massey Tunnel on Highway 99 with a $3-billion bridge over the Fraser. For some reason, this is not included in the referendum question, although we can't be 100 per cent sure until Thursday, when the secret question is revealed.

As for the wish list itself, each of the wishes is immensely controversial and, together, don't add up to a comprehensive plan to address the looming traffic apocalypse. They're just a bunch of unco-ordinated wishes, and don't include important issues such as the aforementioned tunnel or the fate of the Georgia viaduct.

I have a question, and it's not a secret: Where's the leadership? A referendum on a question devised in secret by a level of government that has no jurisdiction is hardly leadership. If the premier doesn't want a new Patullo Bridge or Broadway Skytrain, why doesn't she just say so? Short-cut this clown show, and get on with trying to figure out how to stuff a million people into what is already the fourth-most densely populated city in North America.

## Your Vancouver

### Ice skaters get taste of winter

From left, Paulina Zavala, Sarah Jeanmoye and Margot Jud hit the Robson ice rink on Dec. 4 with their classmates. Ice skaters enjoyed a taste of winter at the downtown rink as the rain fell over the city. Have a fun weekend shot? Send it to us at vancouver@metronews.ca.

JENNIFER GAUTHIER/FOR METRO

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## Letters

B.C. proposes wider bike paths along Stanley Park Causeway

Community gardens safe: Deputy city manager

**RE: "Community Gardens Safe: Vancouver Deputy City Manager" Dec 2, 2014**

On behalf of the members of the 16 Oaks Community Garden, I offer this perspective from us, the gardeners. Firstly, Gladys Oka's research findings are not news to us. Since its inception in 2008, our garden has participated in three UBC Land and Food Systems research projects (2008, 2012, 2013). From Day 1 we knew the challenges we were faced with given the location and the environment. We have made conscientious decisions to mitigate risks, such as using raised vegetable beds (made with untreated wood), adding clean fill every year, and using non-toxic organic approaches for fertilization and pest management. In addition, by planting grass, shrubs, and flower beds (using clean soil) we have attempted to minimize the amount and the mobility of the native site soil that was the subject of the of the soil sampling test results. Behind the "news" of the research findings is the bigger story — that by implementing guidelines for assessing sites for urban growers, informed decisions can be made regarding the safety of growing our own food.

**Lauren Bouchard, Vancouver**

metro

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Gossip

## NED EHRBAR

METRO'S TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Kirk Cameron GETTY IMAGES

# There's no Saving Christmas for Kirk Cameron turkey

Former Growing Pains star and outspoken evangelical Christian Kirk Cameron learned the hard way that the Internet is basically like quicksand: The more you struggle, the worse it gets.

Last month, Cameron balked at the abysmal score for his new film, Saving Christmas, on review aggregator Rotten Tomatoes, so he called his fans to action to improve the score by flooding the site with good reviews.

Of course, Rotten Tomatoes doesn't really work that way, but that's beside the point. What happened instead? Well, Cameron just encouraged online pranksters to go to town, pushing the film to the No. 1 stop on IMDb's 100 Worst Movies list, determined by user ratings on the film database.

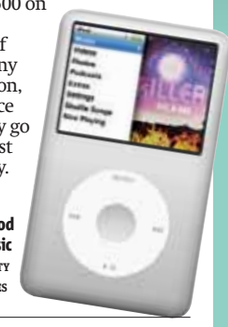
And unless he can encourage his fans to start voting down Birdemic: Shock and Terror so its ranking dips below the 1.5 stars Saving Christmas currently has, it's an honour he'll hold for a while.

# iPod you not! Music lovers pay big notes for Classics

All that outrage over Apple sneakily discontinuing the popular iPod Classic in the wake of the iPhone 6 and Apple Watch announcements has given way to some impressive price-gouging, as fans are now apparently willing to shell out quite a bit for the dedicated music player. The 160-gigabyte capacity iPod Classics are now selling for as much as £670 (or about $1,190) in the U.K., according to the Guardian, while in the U.S. they're topping out on Amazon at the seemingly much more reasonable $490.

But that's still a lot more than the $249 the Classic went for before being killed off. Oh, and if you've got an old iPod Classic kicking around and want to cash in, even used ones are going for up to $500 on eBay.

But if this is any indication, that price will only go up, so list carefully.



iPod Classic GETTY IMAGES

Jessica Simpson INSTAGRAM

# Jessica will not sweep her love under the rug

Instagram is a great venue for making personal confessions or proclamations of love, or just releasing news.

And it looks like Jessica Simpson decided to do all three in one very simple photo, stating quite bravely on the site, "I love carpet." No links, no hashtags, nothing to muddy the message.

So, there you have it.

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**Ebooks**

## The Sailor's Dream

**By.** Jonas Tarestad and Jonathan Eng

**iPad/iPhone**

Time passes in this novella when you're not reading it. Open it after an hour or a day and new pages appear. Hidden within interactive illustrations, story snippets float up like repressed memories. The narrative is hard to follow, but the experience is poetic.

**App**

## *TouchCast: Imagine*

**iPad**
**Free**

Record yourself singing John Lennon's Imagine and you can join UNICEF and the United Nations for the world's largest sing-along music video, to be released this New Year's Eve.

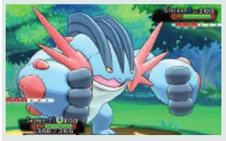
**Video game**

**Name.** Pokémon Omega Ruby/Alpha Sapphire

**For.** Nintendo 3DS/2DS

**Rated.** Everyone

The way this game sets you up to battle your father is the best approach yet to the theme of finding independence in childhood. That you can now decorate and share your own secret bases online or compete in a Contest Spectacular is all fun, but it's still the little story moments that offer real charm.



WIND, WAVES... FIRE
NOTHING KEEPS A PADDLER DOWN

A month ago the Canadian International Dragon Boat Festival Society, a registered non-profit society, experienced a disastrous fire which devastated our community and our operations. Though the fire was a serious setback to our paddling activities we have received so much support from both the local community as well as paddlers.

**With the help of our community partner, Concord Pacific, we held a fundraiser and we wish to thank the following supporters whose generosity has made our post-fire fundraising efforts successful!**

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Yaletown Photography
All the Attendees of the Steel Toad Pub Fundraiser

CONCORD PACIFIC
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# It takes a crowd to cross ethnic boundaries

**Sandra Oh.** Former Grey's Anatomy star seeks funding for new film project she hopes will better represent young Asian women

NED EHRBAR
Metro in Hollywood

After 10 seasons on Grey's Anatomy, actress Sandra Oh is going in a very different direction for her next project. Oh is lending her voice and producing power to Window Horses, an animated film about a young Canadian poet of Chinese and Iranian descent. And she's also learning a lot about the world of crowdfunding, thanks to the film's extensive Indiegogo campaign.

**You've been busy since leaving Grey's Anatomy.**
I'm super-excited to be working on Window Horse and kind of producing for the first time, which for me is a whole new hat and a whole new learning curve, which is great. It's so exciting for me. After a decade of Grey's, the thing I fall in love with is an animated film! So I thought I'd try to get that made.

**What was it about this project that spoke to you?**
For me, Window Horses is so pro-girl, it's pro-tolerance, it's pro-diversity and it's set in the world of poetry. These are all things I feel extremely invested in and extremely interested in sharing. I feel that race is deeply a part of everyday life, and to be a spokesperson or to put stories out there about people who don't get represented is something I'm really interested in and very invested in. I realized while watching things that are geared towards young people, young girls, I still do not see myself represented as an Asian person. Absolutely not, even with the headway that we have made.

**How do we get to a place where projects that are pro-girl and pro-diversity don't just seem like no-brainers?**
I honestly don't know. I'm fully aware that the Indiegogo campaign is an outsider's way of making work, and honestly that's why it appeals to me.

Having been inside, in some ways, for the past decade on a very successful and very well-funded television show — which was an amazing, amazing experience — I just want to take what I know from that and bring it to another audience, an audience that is not as well-represented, who actually wants to hear different stories, not mainstream stories.

I'm honestly sick of seeing the same story over and over and over again. All you have to do is look at reality television. All those things are the same!

**What has (Grey's creator) Shonda Rhimes done for representation on TV?**

Sandra Oh is crowdfunding for an animated film about a young Canadian poet. GETTY IMAGES

There's so much Grey's did for diversity on television, and the style of the show was that we never talked about race.

The way that her track record can actually prove, in a physical, monetized way, that people will watch a TV show when there are black people on it, to be quite blunt — it's like, yes!

And other stories, other faces that maybe we're not used to seeing as the primary storytellers. Who are we following? Who's story are we following?

The character in Window Horses is this mixed-race young woman who is trying to discover herself and who has an artist's voice and goes and finds it in another country. I just know that there is an audience for that.

I know there is a girl out there who is going to see herself in this character, and I want her to see it.

**How has it been so far interacting with that audience?**
It's very new for us. I'm sure there are a lot of other people who are pros at it, and the way we're doing it is our own way. It's mysterious in its own way because you have no idea what will happen, and I just hope that people will see it and say, "I want to see a stick-figure character who has two little slits for eyes and is wearing a chador, I want to see her up there so I'm going to donate."

It's a platform to connect with people — to connect with like-minded people. Just the amount of people who have responded to it and want to tell their own stories, it's a like a floodgate. When people — or let's say larger organizations or paradigm structures — say that no one wants to hear these stories, I just don't believe it. I don't believe it at all.

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# Streaming. Krysten Ritter lands role as Jessica Jones in Marvel superhero series for Netflix

According to The Hollywood Reporter, Krysten Ritter has landed the role of Jessica Jones, the superheroine turned private eye whose series will air on Netflix.

The actress was chosen over four other candidates: Marin Ireland, Alexandra Daddario, Teresa Palmer and Jessica de Gouw. The news is not yet confirmed.

Ritter has an extensive TV resumé, including roles on Don't Trust the B— in Apartment 23, The Blacklist, Veronica Mars and Breaking Bad. Also a regular on the big screen, she will soon appear in Tim Burton's Big Eyes and in the comedy Search Party.

Jessica Jones will be the second of four series ordered by Netflix from Marvel, each of which is dedicated to a lesser-known superhero. A former classmate of Peter Parker (Spider-Man), Jones was once known as the superheroine Jewel. After several traumatic experiences, she decides to give up the superhero lifestyle and open her own private detective agency, Alias, through which she ends up helping ordinary people as well as other superheroes.

Before discovering Jessica Jones, Netflix subscribers will find Daredevil on the platform in May 2015, with Charlie Cox in the title role. AFP

Krysten Ritter AFP

## DVD reviews

### Guardians of the Galaxy

**Director.** James Gunn

**Stars.** Chris Pratt, Zoe Saldana, Bradley Cooper

●●●●○

What do you do when you have a bunch of raggedy characters and ideas and you want to make a movie? If you're Marvel Comics, you make Guardians of the Galaxy, a summer hit that turned leftovers into one of the year's tastiest dishes.

These Guardians are a crew of celestial badasses: grunting tree Groot (Vin Diesel); sarcastic mutant varmint Rocket Raccoon (Bradley Cooper); pompous strongman Drax (Dave Bautista); and green-skinned ninja Gamora, (Zoe Saldana). The fifth member is the only human one: Chris Pratt's treasure raider Peter Quill. They all have their own attitudes and agendas, but fate — in the form of an all-powerful orb that could destroy the universe — forces them to work together.

### Frank

**Director.** Lenny Abrahamson

**Star.** Michael Fassbender

●●●●○

Bat-dung crazy, in a good way, Lenny Abrahamson's Frank is the story of a pop star who really lets his art go to his head. A giant papier-mâché one, which Michael Fassbender wears throughout his title performance as a musician afflicted, or blessed, with the same kind of arty madness as the late Captain Beefheart and Pink Floyd's Syd Barrett.

For most of the film, we're left wondering if Frank is pulling our leg or leading us toward something dark and sinister.

PETER HOWELL

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Fluid top-offs, inspections, tire rotations, wheel alignments and balancing, etc., are not covered. Additional conditions and limitations apply. See dealer for details. ^^Whichever comes first. See dealer for details.

# Celebrating two decades of revolutionary gaming

**PlayStation.** This month 20 years ago, Sony's little grey box hit stores. The way we play video games has never been the same

PlayStation was Sony's first foray into computer games. GETTY IMAGES

Twenty years ago, a box of electronic tricks made its debut in Japan, heralding the birth of the global gaming phenomenon that changed the entertainment landscape, launching titles that now outstrip sales from Hollywood's biggest franchises.

The original PlayStation, which hit stores in early December 1994, brought revolutionary graphics, engrossing gameplay and the kind of complex virtual worlds that had only previously been available in an arcade.

"When we arrived, the video game was seen as a niche hobby. One of our achievements is to have succeeded in making a legitimate cultural object, like music or cinema," said Jim Ryan, chief executive of Sony Computer Entertainment Europe.

The launch was Sony's first foray into computer games and pitted the company against the established giant of the sector, Nintendo, whose character-driven two-dimensional offerings like Super Mario had wowed children.

But unlike the 16-bit cartridges that powered the Super Nintendo Entertainment System (SNES), Sony's PlayStation opted for cheap-to-produce CD-ROMs, a technology that allowed vast tracts of data to be stored. The discs' convenience and powerful graphics in the original 32-bit machines lured game developers and players into a world where, suddenly, 3-D was in reach.

And it wasn't just the insides of the machines that Sony had reimagined; they shunned the plain rectangle controllers of the SNES in favour of an ergonomic device that sat neatly in a player's hands.

Titles such as Tomb Raider, Gran Turismo and Final Fantasy spurred console sales and launched what became multi-billion dollar franchises with legions of loyal fans.

Global blockbusters like Grand Theft Auto joined the PlayStation world, as well as other platforms. The latest installment took in a billion dollars in its first three days of sales, putting even huge cinematic hits in the shade.

In March 2000, PlayStation 2 burst onto the market, leveraging the mega-capacity of DVDs before the format was standard storage. The trademark controller remained, but with additional features like vibrations and a sleek new design featuring a black tower with clean lines that had the grace of a designer's touch. The company shifted around 150 million units worldwide, and the PS2 remains the best-selling console of all time.

Although addicts got a handheld PSP in 2004, it would be another six years until the main console got an update with the PS3, a Blu-ray equipped and Internet-ready device that allowed gamers in different continents to play against each other.

Where gaming had once been largely a solitary activity or done among friends close to home, there was now a global community of like-minded players. AFP

**Limited-edition swag**

- In a special limited edition, Sony's next-generation console takes on the same grey shade as its ancestor, the original PlayStation, which celebrated its 20th anniversary on Dec. 3. Fans of retro gaming memorabilia will have to be quick to score one of the 12,300 grey PS4 consoles being released worldwide. The colour of this limited edition echoes that of the original PlayStation, now known as the PS1, released in 1994.

# World of Warcraft gifts its gamers

Blizzard Entertainment's World of Warcraft has launched and is celebrating that achievement within the game's virtual world of Azeroth.

Running through to Jan. 6, 2015, two special events and one guaranteed gift will be available to players, Blizzard announced via its community website Battle.net. A pet lapdog, the Molten Corgi, will be dispensed to all that log in to the game during the celebration period, while a revived Molten Core mission allows top-level participants to delve back into a classic raid scenario in pursuit of a fiery rock monster.

WoW players will be treated to a special gift until Jan. 6. AFP FILE

And with the aim of recalling the feel of early World of Warcraft encounters, a temporary but specially constructed battleground allows groups of players to tussle for supremacy in the hopes of winning an honorary title.

World of Warcraft has maintained its subscription-based model since that launch 10 years ago, boasting 12 million subscribers in October 2010.

Numbers had fallen to 6.8 million by August 2014, but were boosted back to 10 million this November with the release of a fifth expansion pack Warlords of Draenor which offered overhauled fundamentals along with new content for its fan base.

Entrance to World of Warcraft costs $15 for the base game and all its previous expansions, $45 for the newly released Warlords of Draenor, and $15 for each additional month of auto-renewing subscription (less if purchased on a 3- or 6-month basis). AFP

# Release. Game of Thrones arrives on PS4, other consoles to follow

The Game of Thrones game focuses on House Forrester. AFP FILE

The popular HBO series Game of Thrones has inspired a video game. Released last week, the game focuses on members of House Forrester, a family that has sworn loyalty to the Starks.

Though not yet seen in the small-screen adaptation, the Forresters feature in George R.R. Martin's books as a noble clan hailing from the north of Westeros, which they must save from destruction. In the new game, players can choose between five characters from House Forrester, offering five different perspectives. However, actions taken by one character may have repercussions for the rest of the family.

Even if the Forrester name doesn't ring a bell, Game of Thrones fans are sure to find a few familiar faces and settings in the game. Tyrion Lannister (Peter Dinklage), Cersei Lannister (Lena Heady), Margaery Tyrell (Natalie Dormer) and Ramsay Snow (Iwan Rheon) all feature in the gameplay, which also includes some of the most recognizable settings from the TV adaptation (King's Landing, the Wall, etc.) AFP

**Christmas**

## NORAD sets up Santa tracker

Christmas is almost here and thanks to the wonders of the Internet, Santa-watchers can track St. Nick's journey around the world in real time. NORAD has once again launched its Santa tracker with Microsoft, along with a real-time countdown to the big day. Visit noradsanta.org.
AFP

**Gaming**

## Moms love mobile gaming

Looking for a present for a mother with school-age kids this year? Get her an App Store or Google Play gift card to buy access to the next level of Candy Crush Saga. Research from game network WildTangent shows 80 per cent of smartphone owning moms are now gaming at least once a week. AFP

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# Wrap up the year with savings

**Money makeover.** The tree isn't the only thing that needs trimming in December

GAIL VAZ-OXLADE
Gail blogs daily at gailvazoxlade.com

When was the last time you actually read your bills? Most people just pay 'em without giving a second thought to whether they're getting their money's worth.

Since you work hard for your money, doesn't it make sense to see if it's going where it will do you the most good? As we round the corner into a new year, this is a good time to stop and take stock of how you've been spending your money.

People shell out thousands a year on home phone and cellphone bills. A little attention could net you a cheaper plan that gets you what you need and puts money into your savings account. Ditto your cable and gas bills, your credit card and bank statements.

Today, spend one hour going over all your bills so you're completely familiar with where your money is going.

Look for all the things you pay for, but seldom use, and as you chop, trim, slice and dice, make a list of the money you're saving.

With electricity costs going up, saving money is as simple as unplugging unused appliances. Even when your appliances aren't in use, if they're plugged in, they're using electricity. And some appliances are energy pigs. Did you know your DVR is using more power than your fridge?

Take an hour today to go over all of your bills so you're familiar with where your money is going. ISTOCK

Do you know what you paid in service charges last month? No? Time to read your bill! I've looked through bank statements showing a $20 withdrawal holding hands with a $3 fee. That's a 15 per cent fee. If you're usin' an ATM like a wallet, what's wrong with you?

Then there are the dopes that think living in overdraft is a good idea. It's not just the monthly fee (if you even have a plan, 'cause I've seen some folks paying $5 a day for every day they're in overdraft), there's the interest charge too. No, that's not 1.75 per cent a year ... that's a month, which translates into 21 per cent a year. OD was never meant as a cash-flow supplement; it was always meant for emergencies. If you are always in overdraft, it's because you haven't cozied up to a budget. Do it.

Don't forget those bills that come less often, like your home and car insurance. My last home insurance bill went up by 16 per cent. You might be surprised at how easy it is to save some money just by shopping around online.

While you might have grown very comfortable with the insurance company or broker with whom you've been dealing, if you can save a couple of hundred bucks a year by shopping around, that's nothing to sneeze at. Your premiums will also go down if you choose a higher deductible. The standard deductible is $500. Since you're unlikely to make an insurance claim for such a piddly amount, raise the deductible on your policy and add a little extra to your emergency fund to cover the difference. And bundling home and vehicle insurance together could save you more than $300. Hey, that's worth the call to consolidate, isn't it?

Eliminate just $50 worth of monthly spending, and you'll have $600 to add to your savings this year. Take that $600, invest it in an RRSP at an average return of 5 per cent, and reinvest your tax refund every year to make your RRSP contribution grow, and in:

20 years you'll have $29,610
25 years you'll have $37,485
30 years you'll have $45,360
35 years you'll have $53,235
40 years you'll have $95,424

... all from a measly little $50 a month. Can you imagine what you could do with $100?

**Cut the waste**

**If you find places where you're surprised at what you've been shelling out all this time, it may be time to re-evaluate what you're getting for what you're spending.**

- Are you paying to have movies piped in, but never seem to watch? Axe it.
- Buying services at a premium? Move to a lower level of service and save the difference. That's more money for your savings.
- Paying for membership at a gym that you haven't visited in six months? Lose it.
- Paid even $1 in banking machine fees? Do you really think your bank needs your money more than you do?

# Expert tips for those holiday gratuities

Tipping may be customary after visits to the salon or local coffee shop, but should patrons be expected to dig even deeper when doling out gratuities during the holidays?

"It's kind of a difficult subject to give a straight percentage just because it's depending on so many different factors ... and the relationship you have with that person," said Toronto-based etiquette expert Louise Fox, host of MannersTV.com. "How long have you known them? What do they do for you?"

Etiquette experts Karen Cleveland and Margaret Page each say a good barometer is to double the amount of the usual gratuity, or alternatively, offer the cost of the service they typically provide.

"Let's say you have a neighbourhood kid who comes and shovels your snow and you normally hand him a $20 — maybe give him an extra $20. Or, if you typically tip your stylist 10 bucks, double it. Whatever you feel is appropriate," said Toronto-based Cleveland, writer of the column Finishing School.

"And if that's not in your budget, write them a handwritten note. No one is going to scoff at a beautiful, thoughtful note to appreciate their help if a bill doesn't fall out."

The most important thing is for people to give as much as they feel comfortable, said Vancouver-based Page, a business etiquette expert, professional speaker and coach.

Experts share some additional guidelines on tipping specific service providers.

**Hairstylists:** "You might give them a nice card saying: 'Thank you for your service throughout the year' and a fruit basket or a box of cookies you made," said Fox.

**Newspaper or letter carrier:** Cleveland suggested writing a card showing gratitude for the service rather than a specific provider.

"It might not make it into the hands of the person that actually delivers your paper, because that may be 20 people in the course of a year. But the person who picks up that card will feel really good."

**Babysitters:** Teens who look after kids while parents are away are also deserving of recognition. "Something that's maybe the equivalent of what you'd pay them for a job is always a good guideline," said Fox.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

What should you give your hairstylist for the holidays? ISTOCK

# When the going gets ruff, call on the campus canine

**Education.** Post-secondary schools turn to therapy dogs to help high-strung students

MOLLY CONGDON
Metro in New York City

Kathryn Formica and Jersey hard at work in their shared office. CONTRIBUTED

"Doggy!" This is the reaction most people have when a dog crosses their path. For years, studies have examined how dogs help people deal with difficult topics such as illnesses and grief.

Given this, it seems only natural that college campuses across the country would start to use therapy dogs to help relieve the significant stress among students that can build up as they juggle science labs, work-study jobs and writing 20 page papers.

Enter Jersey, an adopted Carolina blend who recently became Drexel University's first canine employee. (He even has his own official identification card).

With Jersey's hiring, Drexel became the first university in the country to have an on-site therapy dog throughout the academic year.

Jersey can be found on the third floor of the recreation centre in the office of Kathryn Formica, his owner and the co-ordinator of student fitness and wellness in the Drexel Recreation Center. Formica explains that she sees an average of 10 to 25 student visitors per day, but around midterms it spiked to 30 students or more.

"I was excited that he's not in a library setting, because it gets students into our building to see the gym facilities," Formica says. "They can see other alternative ways to relieve stress."

Dogs just make people happy, Formica notes in observing Jersey's popularity.

"Jersey reminds them of home," Formica says.

"He makes them feel safe and secure; he brings instant smiles and happiness."

Other schools that have incorporated therapy dogs into campus life include Harvard, which has a Shih Tzu named Cooper in their Library of Medicine and New York University which has had therapy dogs visit their campus to interact with law students.

**Don't have a pup? Seek out your own version**

- **Go for a stroll.** Head to a local park near campus and park yourself on a bench, Trust us, you'll see lots of dogs walking with their humans.
- **Create your own private session.** Find a pet store and pick an adorable dog to look at. That will get you at least 10 minutes of puppy love.

**The dog that made my day**

**"He makes them feel safe and secure; he brings instant smiles and happiness."**

Kathryn Formica, Coordinator of student fitness and wellness in the Drexel Recreation Center, on canine employee Jersey

# Keeping quiet after an incident

**Career.** New online poll finds that most people do not report sexual harassment at work

A new poll has found that four out of five respondents who say they were sexually harassed in the workplace did not report it to their employer.

The online poll of more than 1,500 people conducted by Angus Reid said those who reported harassment offered a number of reasons for not coming forward.

Most said they preferred to handle the problem on their own, while others cited fear that their career would suffer, embarrassment or they felt the incident was too minor in nature.

The poll found 28 per cent of the women and men who participated reported unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favours or sexually charged talk in the past two years.

The polling industry's professional body, the Marketing Research and Intelligence Association, says online surveys can't be assigned a margin of error as they are not a random sample and therefore the surveys are not necessarily representative of the whole population.

The issue of workplace harassment has gained prominence since the CBC fired radio host Jian Ghomeshi after a number of women accused him of physical and sexual harassment.

He has admitted to engaging in rough sex, but has said the encounters were consensual.

Toronto police recently laid criminal charges including four counts of sexual assault against Ghomeshi after three women came forward alleging physical and sexual harassment.

Ghomeshi's lawyer has said her client will plead not guilty to the charges.

The issue gained further prominence after two female New Democrat members of Parliament came forward and accused two Liberal MPs of misconduct and the Liberals were suspended from caucus.

Three quarters of those who took part in the online panel poll said sexual harassment in the workplace should receive far more attention than it does.

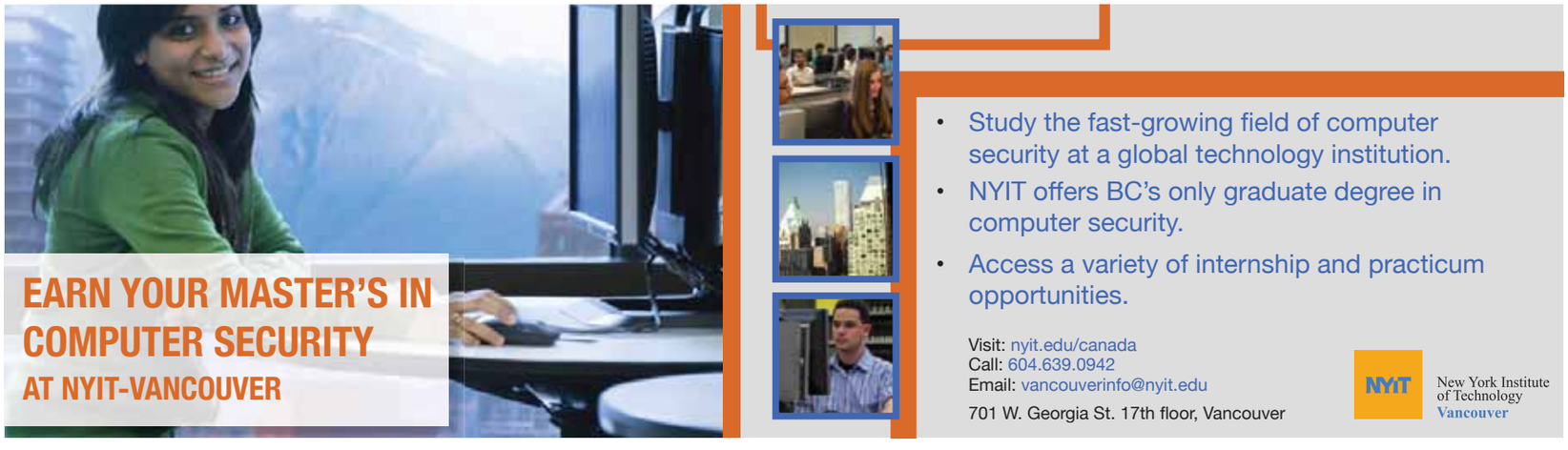
The survey defined sexual harassment as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favours, and other verbal — non-touching — conduct of a sexual nature.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

**Female focus**

**43 %**

Results of an Angus Reid study indicated that women were four times as likely to be on the receiving end of sexual harassment than men; 43 per cent compared to 12 per cent.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# I'm scared to speak my mind

OFFICE SPACE
Eleni Deacon
life@metronews.ca

**Dear Metro,**
**Everyone in my office has an aggressive personality — except me. I'm so shy that lately I'm finding it difficult to even speak in meetings. I want to share my ideas and opinions, but I'm nervous to get shot down by all the other, louder people. How can I get over my nerves?**
**— Mute Wuss**

Dear MW,
So you're the anxious, silent type. You respond to your colleagues' squawks with no response at all. But here's a suggestion: You're not actually afraid of your co-workers. You're afraid of disappointing yourself.

By taking the focus off others and onto yourself, you take back control. Don't ask, "How can I impress those loudmouths?" Instead ask, "How can I be happy with my own contributions, regardless of how the loudmouths react?"

If possible, prepare. Bringing notes to your meeting, and even rehearsing beforehand, will help smooth over your stumbles.

In the moment, trap the butterflies in your stomach with clichéd, but effective, calm-your-nerves techniques. Breathe deep, count to 10, and have water on hand to sip away any croaks in your throat.

And if these methods don't work, just open your mouth and see what happens.

Because what's worse — your co-workers disliking your ideas, or thinking you have no ideas at all?

**Dear Metro,**
**My office is doing the 'Yankee Swap' version of Secret Santa — that's the one where we each bring a wrapped gift, put it on a table, then take turns either opening a new package or stealing from someone else. I really want to bring a cool gift, but there are about 30 people in my office and I don't know how to please the whole crowd. Any ideas?**
**— St. Nick Wannabe**

Dear SNW,
Something lame: Getting stuck with a crappy gift at the end of your Yankee Swap. Something even more lame: Being the guy who brought the no-one-wants-it dud to your Yankee Swap.

For a safe bet, go boring-but-useful. Stealables with wide appeal include gift cards to a lunch place near your work, fancy snacks, or a nice bottle of booze. Scratch lottery tickets are a fun gift card alternative — though it might sting if your giftee wins big.

Either way, try to keep it gender and age neutral, and always ask yourself: Would I re-gift this?

Or you could forget all that and go wild. A goofy gift won't be the most coveted, but it will be the most memorable.

Joanne from marketing may not want that macaroni-decorated homemade picture frame showcasing a glamour shot of your face — but everyone will get a kick out of watching her unwrap it.

Assuming that your co-workers are out to get you may ambush your chances of getting to know a great group of people. Say your piece and see what happens. ISTOCK

**It sounds silly, but it works**

**In the moment, trap the butterflies in your stomach with clichéd but effective calm-your-nerves techniques.**


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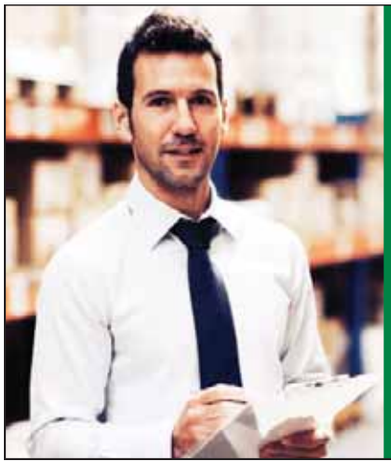

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# Veg up gnocchi with kale and squash

**Dinner.** Typically served with a simple sauce, this potato pasta gets a healthy makeover

ROSE REISMAN
For more, visit rosereisman.com or follow her on twitter @rosereisman

**FLASH FOOD**

From your fridge to your table in 30 minutes or less

This recipe serves six. ROSE REISMAN

Gnocchi is a version of pasta made from potato, egg and flour. It's a wonderful appetizer or main meal especially during the colder months, which means right now!

Gnocchi doesn't just have to be paired with a tomato sauce.

To make this a heartier dish, I've added cubes of butternut squash, which are filled with vitamin A and C, potassium and fibre. Super green kale, meanwhile, is a cancer-fighting cruciferous vegetable that contains daily amounts of vitamin K, C and A.

If you like a more flavourful cheese than Parmesan, try Romano or Pecorino.

**Ingredients**

- 1 cup diced onion
- 1 tsp vegetable oil
- 1 1/2 tsp crushed garlic
- Salt and pepper
- 1 1/2 cup diced butternut squash
- 1 cup diced red bell pepper
- 1 lb gnocchi
- 8 cups chopped kale leaves
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1/3 cup grated mozzarella cheese

## Directions

**1.** Preheat broiler.

**2.** In large skillet, sauté onion in vegetable oil for 3 minutes on medium heat. Add garlic, salt and pepper, squash and red bell pepper, sauté for 5 minutes, stirring constantly.

**3.** Meanwhile, bring a pot of water to a boil. Add gnocchi and bring back to a boil. Cook for 4 or 5 minutes, or just until the gnocchi rise to the top and are tender. Add kale during last two minutes of cooking. Drain well and add gnocchi and kale to squash mixture. Add Parmesan cheese.

**4.** Spray a 9x13 inch casserole dish with vegetable oil. Add gnocchi mixture and garnish with mozzarella cheese. Broil for two minutes or just until cheese has melted.

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The Senators' Mika Zibanejad dekes Canucks goalie Eddie Lack before scoring a goal on Sunday in Ottawa. JANA CHYTILOVA/FREESTYLE PHOTOGRAPHY/GETTY IMAGES

# Canucks bested by lack of discipline

**NHL.** Weary Vancouver team wraps up seven-game road trip in Montreal on Tuesday

CAM TUCKER
cam.tucker@metronews.ca

Fatigue had set in and the Vancouver Canucks were nearing the end of a seven-game road trip and playing for the second time in as many nights.

It was time for Eddie Lack to step up, but while he stood on his head for most of Sunday's game against the Ottawa Senators, he couldn't stop everything.

Ottawa's star defenceman Erik Karlsson scored the winning goal in overtime, sending the Canucks on their way to Montreal for the finale of this trip with a 4-3 loss. While the Canucks do get a single point, they coughed up a three-goal lead past the midway point of this game.

It's difficult, if not impossible to fault Lack.

A win for him would've certainly raised questions in Vancouver about who — Lack or Ryan Miller — gets the start against the Canadiens Tuesday.

Lack made 41 saves.

The Senators finally snapped Lack's personal shutout streak at 138 minutes and three seconds.

They continued to fill the net, eventually taking over the game completely. The Canucks looked half a step behind and they lacked discipline in that second period.

Now the Canucks face a daunting task.

A win Saturday in Toronto would have ensured a winning record on this trip.

It's still possible. They'll now face what should be an emotionally charged Habs team that will be honouring Jean Béliveau, the Canadiens legend who died last week at the age of 83.

**On Sunday**

| 4 | 3 |
|---|---|
| Senators | Canucks |

Brad Richardson scored his seventh of the season to give Vancouver that three-goal cushion.

The ice quickly tilted in favour of the Senators.

Ottawa had a run of power plays in the second period, including two lengthy 5-on-3 advantages.

They got the momentum, firing 15 power-play shots on Lack, eventually solving the Canucks' puck stopper.

It started with David Legwand, scoring on the second of Ottawa's two-man advantages.

Mika Zibanejad added two more before the end of the second period and later set up the winner.

It was all the Canucks could do to hang on in the third period. And it was Lack who salvaged a point for a tired team.

**NFL**

## Seahawks soar higher than Eagles

Russell Wilson made enough plays while Seattle's top-ranked defence shut down Chip Kelly's offence.

Wilson threw two touchdown passes, ran for another score and the Seattle Seahawks stifled Philadelphia in a 24-14 victory over the Eagles on Sunday.

Wilson had 263 yards passing and ran for 48 to help the Seahawks (9-4) win their third straight game. The defending Super Bowl champions have victories over NFC West-leading Arizona (10-3), San Francisco (7-6) and Philadelphia (9-4) in the last three weeks. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Galaxy win MLS Cup**

## Donovan goes out on top

Landon Donovan is retiring as a champion, thanks to one brilliant goal by Robbie Keane.

Keane scored on a breakaway in the 111th minute, and Donovan won his record sixth MLS title Sunday in the LA Galaxy's 2-1 victory over the New England Revolution in the MLS Cup.

It was the Galaxy's record fifth MLS title. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**NHL**

## Oilers snap long losing streak

David Perron scored the game-winner midway through the third period as the Edmonton Oilers snapped a dreadful 11-game losing skid, getting past the San Jose Sharks 2-1 on Sunday.

Nail Yakupov also scored for the Oilers (7-15-5), who won at home for the first time in nine contests. Edmonton also captured its first win against a Western Conference opponent this season. THE CANADIAN PRESS

**Correction notice**

Starbucks ad Dec 2 legal disclaimer missing, please see legal copy below:

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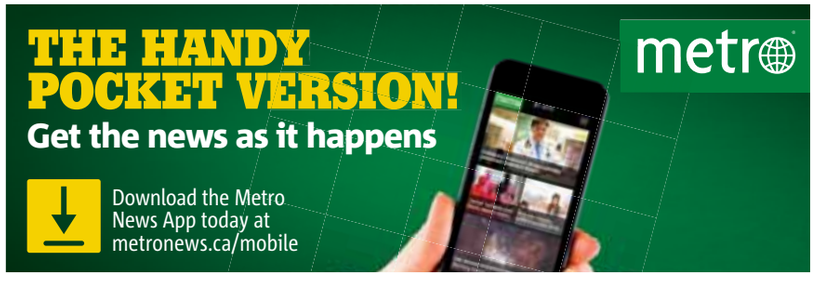


## AUGMENTED REALITY

**Stuck on 12 Across? Scan this image with your Metro News app for today's crossword and Sudoku answers. It's OK. No one's watching.**

→ See the full instructions on Metro's Voices page.

## Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

### ♈ Aries
**March 21 - April 20**
This week should be easier than last week. Today, however, you may have to deal with a problem you would like to pretend does not exist.

### ♉ Taurus
**April 21 - May 21**
An embarrassing event will make you shy to show your face in certain circles but so what if you made a fool of yourself? No one is perfect. Laugh it off.

### ♊ Gemini
**May 22 - June 21**
Get out into the world and have a good time. The more people you meet on your travels the better, as they will open your eyes to new possibilities.

### ♋ Cancer
**June 22 - July 23**
Something shiny will catch your eye and you won't be happy until you possess it. Whether or not you can afford it won't worry you. Will you regret it tomorrow? Who cares!

### ♌ Leo
**July 24 - Aug. 23**
There are so cosmic influences working in your favour and you can't help but feel delighted with life. However, as luck planet Jupiter turns retrograde in your sign today don't take too much for granted.

### ♍ Virgo
**Aug. 24 - Sept. 23**
If you find it hard to get your act in gear as the new week begins maybe you are doing something wrong. Or maybe you need an extra day of rest.

### ♎ Libra
**Sept. 24 - Oct. 23**
Make an effort to get to know someone you thought of as boring and you may be surprised to find they are more interesting than you imagined.

### ♏ Scorpio
**Oct. 24 - Nov. 22**
Whatever challenges you are faced with over the next few days you will attack them. But don't get carried away and take on something (or someone) that is out of your league.

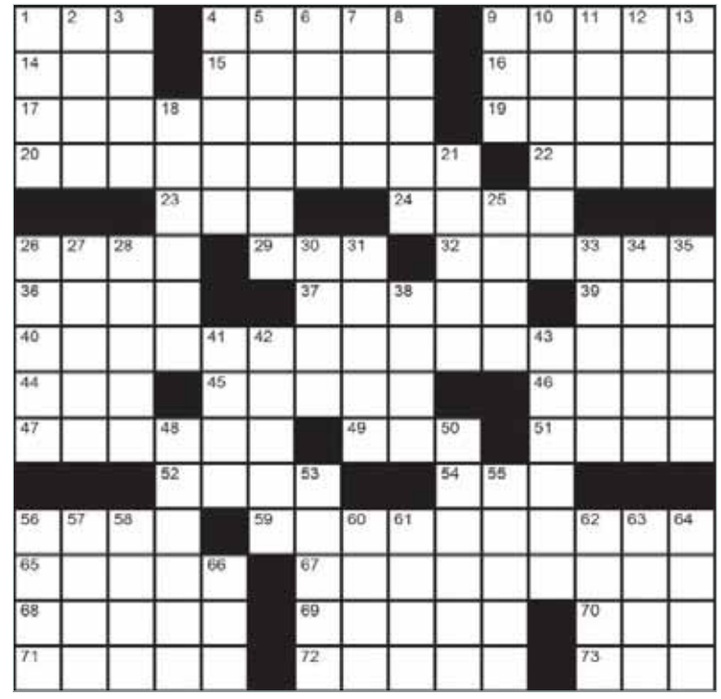
### ♐ Sagittarius
**Nov. 23 - Dec. 21**
You know that what you believe in is right and you know that what someone else believes in is wrong. How do you convince them to change their outlook? You don't. Let them learn from their own mistakes.

### ♑ Capricorn
**Dec. 22 - Jan. 20**
Don't be too critical of someone today because later in the week you will need their assistance and they are unlikely to give it if you've been too hard on them.

### ♒ Aquarius
**Jan. 21 - Feb. 19**
As Jupiter begins one of its retrograde phases today you are advised not to take anything for granted.

### ♓ Pisces
**Feb. 20 - March 20**
You may be one of the more sensitive members of the zodiac but you can be tough when the occasion calls for it. At work others will get the message that you're not such a wimp after all.

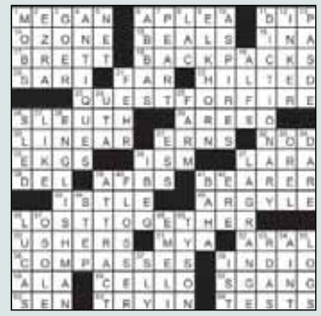
## Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan



### Across
1. Corn on the __
4. Guinness and Baldwin
9. Thing to kick as a New Year's resolution
14. Shakespeare: "_, __ some other name!" - Juliet
15. "Hello, __!" (1969)
16. Historical time
17. One who points out every perceived flaw
19. Indulgence at the mall
20. John Lennon song: 2 wds.
22. Star tennis player Mr. Murray
23. Battleship letters in The States
24. Yank
26. Printer's pile
29. Five - Three = What?
32. Opera legend Maria (b.1923 - d.1977)
36. Languish
37. Mountain spinach
39. "__ the King's Men" (2006)
40. __ __ Provincial Park, in northwestern Ontario
44. Building extension
45. Speak
46. Ding-__! (Sound from the door)
47. Delete private information
49. Home addr.
51. Angry snits
52. "This Hour Has 22 Minutes" bit
54. __ rata
56. Ms. Carrere's
59. Promontory on which Quebec City sits: 2 mots
65. Foretells
67. Attorney, in England
68. Bundle-of-joy carrier
69. Food staple
70. Lanois' U2 co-producer
71. Ashen looking
72. Two-masted boats
73. New York baseball player

### Down
1. And, e.g.
2. Off-Broadway theatrical award
3. Test version of software
4. "Good-bye!"
5. Plague pest
6. Antlered animals
7. Horsefly
8. Sundae topping
9. She's opposite
10. Disgust
11. "__ Free" (1966)
12. Frosted
13. Group of unnamed people
18. Feathered
21. State flower of New Mexico
25. Bert of "The Wizard of Oz" (1939)
26. More less cooked
27. School: French
28. Get _ __ of (Contact)
30. "__ Get Fooled Again" by The Who
31. "Waiter! I'm ready to __ now, please."
33. Travail, variant-spelling
34. Tiffany hit: "I Think We're __ Now"
35. Canadian band, Doug and The __
38. Cottage plot
41. Lotto-winner's circumstance
42. Storage-area-turned-extra-room
43. Manners of speaking
48. Declare
50. Type of notebook
53. Type of cat
55. Military attacks
56. Baker's meas.
57. 9th Greek letter
58. Hubbubs
60. Prefix to 'normal'
61. "The Price Is Right" host Mr. Carey
62. "Up and __ '__!" (Rise and shine!)
63. "The Real Housewives of Atlanta" cast member Ms. Leakes
64. Horse speed
66. Flying bird's domain

## Friday's Crossword



## Online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers

## Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

**How to play**
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

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## Friday's Sudoku

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 9 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 1 | 4 |
| 4 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 5 | 7 | 8 |
| 5 | 7 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 9 | 2 | 3 |
| 6 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 7 | 2 | 8 | 5 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 6 |
| 2 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 9 |
| 9 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 7 |
| 1 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 4 | 9 | 2 |
| 8 | 2 | 7 | 9 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 1 |

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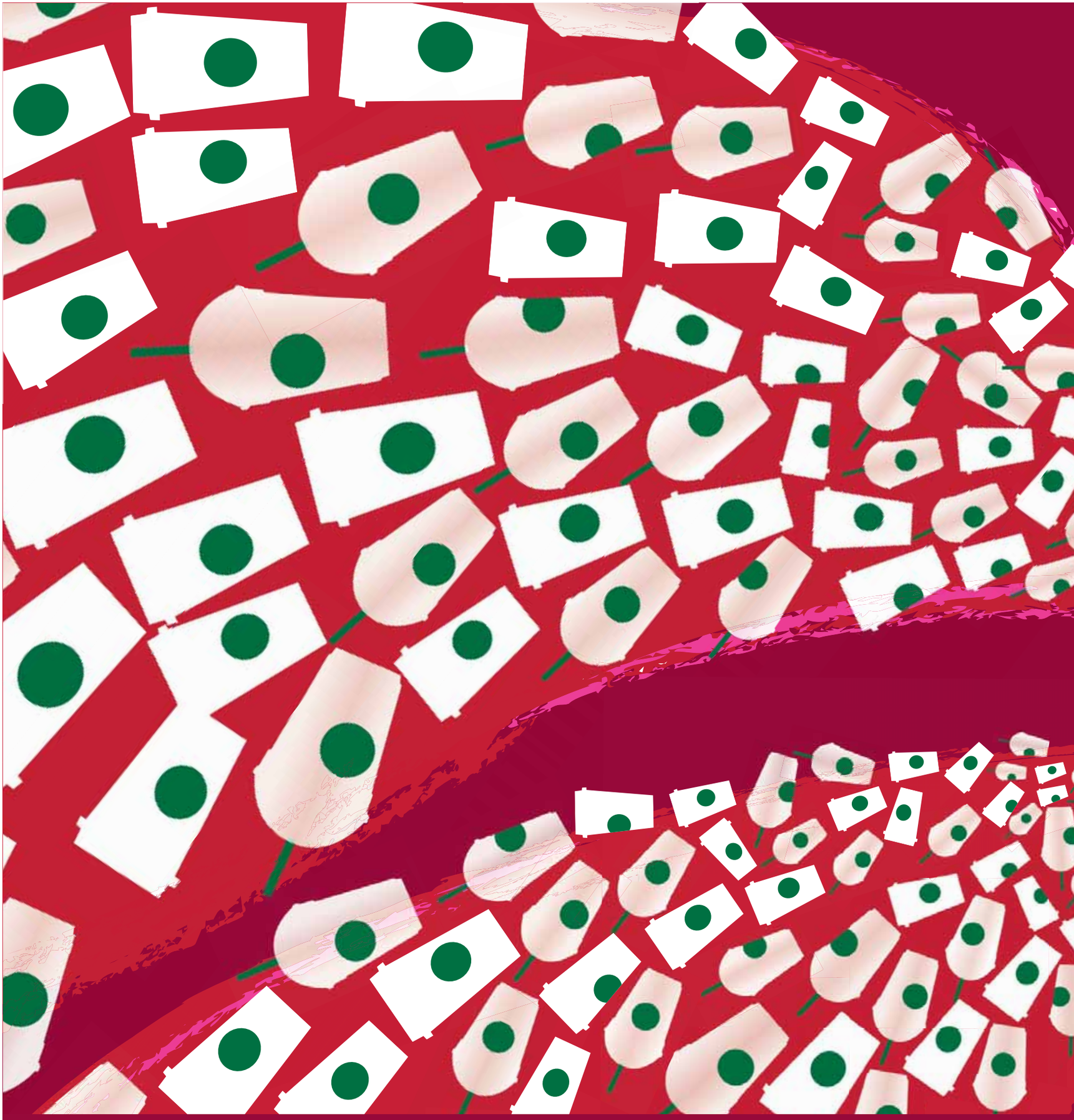

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